

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10, 11, and 16-20 are currently pending.

In the Office Action mailed July 25, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 12, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,653 to Schiefer et al. (Schiefer) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0034616 to Witkowski et al. (Witkowski); rejected claims 2-9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schiefer in view of Witkowski and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,225 to White et al. (White); and *indicated claims 10, 11, and 16-19 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.*

To expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the above-noted rejections, Applicants cancel claims 1-7, 9, and 12-15 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend allowable claims 10 and 16 by rewriting those claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants thus submit that claims 10 and 16 and claims 11 and 17-20, by reason of their dependency from allowable claims 10 and 16, are in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 8 includes the features of canceled claims 1, 3, and allowable claim 10. Applicants submit that claim 8 is also in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 20, although of different scope, includes features deemed allowable by the Examiner with respect to claim 11. Applicants submit that claim 20 is also in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-083-UTL/2004P00004US.

Respectfully submitted,

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/PFS/

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